

Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life Held on Friday, 20 May 1994, 12:30 p.m., Downtown Campus, Room H-771.

Present: Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair; Mr. B. Counihan; Dr. S.M. Graub; Ms. A. Kerby; Ms. N. Torbit; Mr. R. Côté; Mr. V. Pavlicik; Mr. A. Ghaemi; Mr. D. Leib, Ms. J. Chegrinec, Secretary.

Absent: Mr. H. Zarins; Ms. C. Fortier; Dr. B. Litner; Ms. L. Grimes; Mr. P. Dalton; Ms. J. Davies; Ms. K. Bolh; Ms. J. Brown; Mr. K. Lowther; Mr. A. Switzer.

Guest: Mr. A. Ferguson, undergraduate student Department of Exercise Science.

1. Approval of Agenda: On a motion by Mr. Ghaemi, seconded by Ms. Torbit, the agenda was approved.
2. Remarks from the Chair: Dr. Boisvert welcomed those members present to the last meeting of the year of CCSL. Congratulations were extended to Mr. Leib, the recipient of a CACUSS student leadership award. Mr. Leib will be travelling to Newfoundland in June to accept his award.
3. Approval of Minutes from 22 April Meeting: On a motion by Mr. Leib, seconded by Mr. Ghaemi, with no discussion, the minutes were approved.
4. Business Arising from the Minutes: Mr. Counihan requested an update on the Lesbian and Gay Task Force Report. Ms. Kerby responded that, as of yet, no feedback has been received, although there have been requests for copies (4), and press coverage. The Chair said that the recommendations will be returned to in the fall.

Mr. Leib asked about the impact, if any, of the requests from various constituencies of the University, including CCSL, to increase the acquisitions budget of the Library. It was explained that every unit within the University was required to give 11% of the operating budget for 1995-96 back to the University, except the Library. Their 11% was to be put towards acquisitions.

5. Reports from Directors: Recreation & Athletics - In the absence of Mr. Zarins, Mr. Pavlicik reported on activities in the Department. Year-end meetings were being held in recreation to review programmes and plan for the future. On the whole the recreational programmes were utilized more and proved successful. Varsity sports enjoyed a great season. The Department is currently undergoing job re-alignment.

No questions.

Counselling & Development - Dr. Graub reported that the energies of the Department were presently being focused on the self-appraisal document. A review of students on conditional standing is on-going. And the last issue of "Get A Life" was distributed.

Questions - Mr. Ghaemi inquired whether the number of students on conditional standing was known yet. Dr. Graub said no, but last year there were 660, which is a decrease from previous years due mainly to hard work within the Faculties of Arts & Science and Commerce & Administration on retention.

Mr. Leiby informed Council that the Faculty of Engineering & Computer Science was developing an orientation session for students which would promote stronger advising and strengthen the mentor programme. The plans for this are progressing, and hopefully will be in place soon.

Referring to the remark by Dr. Graub that the department is working on the self-appraisal document, Mr. Leiby asked what the status of the Student Services' Appraisal Committee was. Mr. Counihan said that the process was just beginning, with each of the Directors overseeing the preparation of a self-appraisal document. The next step in the process would be to ask CCSL to set up a formal review committee.

In response to Mr. Ghaemi's questions on the news letter, Dr. Graub replied that copies are sent to all the Student Services directors, Vice-Deans of Student Affairs and mailed out through the Office of the Registrar to all students, and a special effort is made to ensure that all students on conditional standing receive a copy.

Advocacy & Support Services - Ms. Kerby reported that the Department is also heavily involved in preparing the self-appraisal document. She reported that over 1000 exams were adapted for disabled students, which is extremely time consuming for the staff. The disabled access project has been approved and work is progressing. In response to Mr. Leiby, Ms. Kerby stated that the Senate Chamber is part of the major project, and also informed him that the ECA can send any material for disabled students to the Office for mailing. Mr. Pavlicik was informed that the Athletics facilities were not in the 1st phase of the project, but were being considered during the 2nd or 3rd phase if new facilities are not built.

Dean of Students - Mr. Counihan informed Council that Kristine Osgoode has been hired as the Student Coordinator for Orientation. He also announced the move of the downtown offices of the Dean of Students to the 6th floor of the Hall building, room 653 from the M Annex.

Questions - Mr. A. Ferguson asked Mr. Counihan if any part of orientation was geared towards the mature student. He found that returning to University after a six or seven year absence was confusing and he, and his fellow students, would have appreciated some guidance. Mr. Ferguson said that the Centre for Mature Students were not able to fulfill the needs of the returning, mature student. Mr. Counihan invited him to forward his comments and concerns to him, and he will discuss the issue with Prof. M. Bryan, Director, Centre for Mature Students.

In response to Mr. Ghaemi's follow-up on the employee suggestion programme, and student participation, it was explained that at this point in time, the programme itself is just getting started. It is an issue that the Chair of the programme has indicated he would address at a future date.

Health Services - Ms. Torbit informed Council that as well as being occupied with the preparation of the self-analysis document, the department has also gone through their own year end evaluation and review. The Professional Development sessions on gays and lesbians was very successful, but no students attended. The Human Development program was also successful, but again no students attended. Participants thought that the session would have been even better with student participation.

Questions - Ms. Torbit will forward documents on the session to Mr. Leib. Mr. Leib was also informed that the department used to experience some downtime in the summer, but this period doesn't seem to exist any longer.

Financial Aid & Awards - Mr. Côté told Council that summer students are now requiring emergency support. The department is also occupied with the preparation of the self-appraisal document. He reported that there has been a steady increase in the number of students requesting aid.

Questions - Mr. Leib was informed that the demand for loans has dramatically increased over the past four years. Mr. Leib also asked if monies were set aside to generate more endowment funds. Mr. Côté informed him that endowment funds could only be established by community members, payroll deductions or events such as the Concordia Shuffle. The Chair said that the scholarship issue would be a major component during the next Capital Campaign. Mr. Côté stated that the long-term plan is to establish a \$20m undergraduate endowment fund.

6. Report from Planning & Resources Committee: A report was not tabled as the Committee had not met during the past month. The annual report is being prepared and will be tabled in the fall. Mr. Ghaemi said that the

Committee has to become more active next year. Mr. Leiby was told that the report on Student Representation will be tabled in the fall.

7. Student Life Issues: Mr. Ghaemi again raised the issue of the shuttle bus schedule. The Chair informed him that the buses were never meant to replace public transport. The sole purpose is to transport students between classes. He will raise the issue with Dr. Barlow about revising the schedule to better suit the demands during exams and the summer period. Ms. Kerby replied to the safety question of the public bus stop by saying that a safety audit is being done. She did want to point out that the the community may be responding to the perception of fear rather than actual occurrences.

The Chair went on to state that the service has had major upgrades within the past two years in both buses and schedule.

Mr. Ghaemi was informed that the informal chats, started during the past year, will continue, but will probably be held earlier in the term.

8. New Business: Members finishing their terms of appointment with Council extended their goodbyes and appreciation. These included Mr. Pavlicik, and all the undergraduate and graduate students. The Chair expressed his thanks to all members.
9. Next Meeting: A discussion was held on the merits of holding a short orientation meeting in September for new members. It was proposed that Council meetings begin at 2:00 p.m., and that due to financial costs lunch would no longer be served. Mr. Leiby asked if the report on the evaluation of teaching dossiers could be made available prior to the next meeting. The Chair said that there were a number of outstanding issues including a) child care report; b) charter of student rights; and c) student representation.
10. Termination of Meeting: On a motion by Ms. Kerby, seconded by Mr. Counihan, the meeting terminated at 2:00 p.m.